

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed June 23, 2008 and Advisory Action mailed September 16, 2008, prior to preparing this response. Currently claims 1-4, 6-34, 43, 73-78 and 82-93 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-34, 43, 73-78 and 82-93 have been rejected and claim 19 has been withdrawn consequent an Examiner induced restriction requirement. Claims 1, 14 and 43 have been amended and claims 94-96 have been added with this paper. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at paragraph 0049 of the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-29, 31, 33, 34, 43, 73-78, 82-84 and 88-93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,942,680, in view of Vigil et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,336,234. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As currently claimed, the discrete strip or striped portion extends along at least a portion of the first tapered portion, at least a portion of the second tapered portion, and at least a portion of the body portion of the balloon.

Dissimilarly, Grayzel discloses that the stiffening members are only present on the central cylindrical portion of the balloon. The stiffening members are not disclosed as being included in the tapered end portions of the balloon as currently claimed, or other portions of the balloon.

For at least these reasons, Grayzel fails to meet at least this limitation as currently claimed. The teachings of Vigil fail to remedy these deficiencies of Grayzel. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested as a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Claims 30 and 85-87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,942,680, in view of Vigil et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,336,234, and further in view of Roychowdhury, U.S. Patent No. 5,587,125. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For at least the reasons above, a prima facie case of

obviousness of independent claims 1, 14 and 43 has not been established with the cited combination of Grayzel and Vigil. Roychowdhury fails to remedy the stated shortcomings of Grayzel and Vigil. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants assert a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established regarding claims 30 and 85-87.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,942,680, in view of Vigil et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,336,234, and further in view of Spears, U.S. Patent No. 5,092,841. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For at least the reasons above, a prima facie case of obviousness of independent claim 14 has not been established with the cited combination of Grayzel and Vigil. Roychowdhury fails to remedy the stated shortcomings of Grayzel and Vigil. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants assert a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established regarding claim 32. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.


Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

Date: _____

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